

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 38-103 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-37 are canceled in favor of new claims 38-103.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 18 and 33 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. By this Amendment, independent claim 38 includes the subject matter of original claims 1 and 18, as well as intervening claims 9 and 16, and independent claim 72 includes features of original claims 1 and 33, as well as intervening claims 9, 19, 21 and 31.

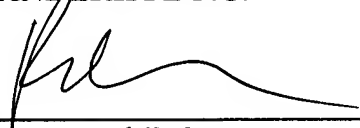
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any thing further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____



Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jck
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100